

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A method of ~~operation~~ recognizing in a network ~~having~~ a plurality of simple and complex devices, each including at least one of a plurality of device types and a simple device description, the method comprising acts of:

a first device of the plurality of simple and complex devices discovering at least one ~~second~~ other device of the plurality of simple and complex devices, the plurality of complex devices including an extended device description;

the first device requesting a simple device description for each discovered ~~second~~ device for which the simple device description is required and receiving from the ~~second~~ discovered device a simple device description message of a defined length, the message including the device type of the ~~second~~ discovered device, the device types forming a predetermined hierarchy including any number of one or more subsidiary device types depending on at least one ~~of another~~ other subsidiary device type and at least one basic device type, devices having a hierarchically lower device type are capable of controlling devices having hierarchically higher device type; and

the first device requesting an extended device description from each ~~second~~ discovered device for which the extended device description is required when the simple

device description indicates that the extended device description is available, and receiving from the ~~second~~-discovered device the extended device description message of a variable length.

2. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 1, further comprising an act of establishing the network address of the ~~second~~-discovered device before the act of sending a simple device description to the ~~second~~-discovered device.

3. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 1-~~or~~-2, wherein the simple device description message is in the form of a token-compressed message compressed from a human-readable message format, each of the subsidiary device types inheriting properties of higher level device types on which the subsidiary device type depends.

4. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 3, wherein the first device is a controller type device comprising a list of the device types of the one or more discovered devices that the controller can control.

5. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 4, further comprising an act of determining the lowest level device type of the device type of the ~~second~~-discovered device or the device type from which the device type of the ~~second~~-discovered device depends, and the extent to which the first device can control the ~~second~~-discovered device.

6. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 5, wherein the requested device type is provided to request whether the first device is able to control a device of the requested device type; and

a device type in the extended device description message representing the lowest level of device type that is the requested device type or is a higher level device type from which the requested device type depends.

7. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 2, wherein the predetermined device type hierarchy further includes a composite device type, and the first device is of the composite device type having the functionality of an integer number of other devices, and the simple device description message including the device type representing the ~~second~~ discovered device as a composite device and the integer number of other devices is the number of the subsidiary device types.

8. (Currently amended) A method of recognizing a plurality of simple and complex devices in a network, the method comprising acts of:

at a first device of the plurality of simple and complex devices:

receiving a simple device description message of a defined length, the message including a device type of a second device of the plurality of simple and complex devices, the device types forming a predetermined hierarchy including ~~any number of~~ one or more

subsidiary device types depending on at least one of ~~another~~other subsidiary device type and at least one basic device type, devices having a hierarchically lower device type are capable of controlling devices having hierarchically higher device type;

receiving an extended device description from each of the plurality of devices for which the extended device description is available and the extended device description required,

wherein the extended device description is received in a variable length message.

9. (Currently amended) A plurality of simple and complex devices including a transceiver for sending and receiving messages and a message handler arranged in a communication network ~~with a plurality of devices~~, a first device of the plurality of devices being configured to perform acts of:

receiving from one of the plurality of devices, a simple device description message of a defined length, the message including a device type of the one device and indicating whether an extended device description is available, the device types forming a predetermined hierarchy including ~~any number of~~one or more subsidiary device types depending on at least one of ~~another~~other subsidiary device type and at least one basic device type, devices having a hierarchically lower device type are capable of controlling devices having hierarchically higher device type; and

receiving an extended device description message of a variable length if the extended device description is available.

10. (Previously presented) The device according to claim 9, wherein the simple device description message is in the form of a token-compressed message compressed from a human-readable message format, each of the subsidiary device types inheriting properties of higher level device types on which the subsidiary device type depends.

11. (Currently amended) A first device, including a transceiver for sending and receiving messages and a message handler arranged in a communication network with a plurality of simple and complex devices, the first device being configured to perform acts of:

discovering at least one of the plurality of devices;

for each discovered device for which the simple device description is required, requesting a simple device description and receiving from the at least one of the plurality of devices, a simple device description message of fixed length including the device type of the at least one of the plurality of devices and indicating whether an extended device description is available, the device types forming a predetermined hierarchy including ~~any number of~~ one or more subsidiary device types depending on at least one of ~~another other~~ subsidiary device type and at least one basic device type, devices having a hierarchically lower device type are capable of controlling devices having hierarchically higher device type; and

testing the simple device description message to determine whether an extended device description is available for each device for which the extended device description is

required, requesting an extended device description when the testing of the simple device description message indicates that there is an extended device description, and receiving from the at least one of the plurality of devices the extended device description of variable length.

12. (Previously presented) The first device according to claim 11, wherein the simple device description message is in the form of a token-compressed message compressed from a human-readable message format, each of the subsidiary device types inheriting properties of higher level device types on which the subsidiary device type depends.

13. (Previously presented) The first device according to claim 12, wherein the first device is the controller device type and comprises a list of device types that can be controlled by the first device, and further comprising an act of determining a lowest level device type of the device type of the at least one of the plurality of devices or the device type from which the device type of the at least one of the plurality of devices depends and the extent to which the first device can control the at least one device of the plurality of devices.

14. (Previously presented) The networked device according to claim 13, wherein the message handler is arranged:

to receive a request from a third device including a device type value inquiring whether the first device is able to control a device of a device type of the third device; and

to respond with a message including a device type representing the lowest level of device type in the list of device types that either is the third device type or is a higher level device type from which the third device type depends.

15. (Currently amended) A system comprising:

a plurality of networked simple and complex devices each having a transceiver for sending and receiving network messages;

at least one networked device of the plurality of networked simple and complex devices is arranged to request, ~~and to receive,~~ and interpret simple device description messages from the other devices of the plurality of networked simple and complex devices, and to request, ~~and to receive,~~ and interpret extended device description messages subsequently received from the ~~other~~ complex devices;

each of the networked simple and complex devices being arranged to respond to an incoming simple device request by sending a simple device description message of defined length including a device type of the responding other device and indicating whether an extended device description is available, the device types forming a predetermined hierarchy including ~~any number of~~ one or more subsidiary device types depending on at least one of another subsidiary device type and at least one basic device type, devices having a hierarchically lower device type are capable of controlling devices having hierarchically higher device type.

16. (Previously presented) The system according to claim 15, wherein the plurality of networked devices includes at least one simple device without the capability to decompress messages and interpreting directly compressed messages and at least one complex device including a message decompression arrangement for decompressing the messages and a message interpreter for interpreting the decompressed messages.

17. (Previously presented) The system according to claim 15, wherein the predetermined top level elements further include a composite device type; the system includes at least one networked device of the composite device type having the functionality of a predetermined number of other devices, the predetermined number being an integer greater than or equal to 2; and each of the at least one networked device of the composite device type responds to a request of a simple device description by sending a simple device description including the device type as a composite device and a sub-device number representing the predetermined number of other devices.

18. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the method acts are encoded in a computer program for controlling a networked device, the computer program being arranged to cause the networked device to carry out the acts of the method.

19. (Canceled)

20. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 18, wherein the computer program is recorded on a non-transitory data carrier.

21-22. (Canceled)